

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-15, 30, and 33-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 16-29, 31, 32, and 37-41 are hereby cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 14, 15, 30, 35, and 36 have been amended. Claims 1 and 30 are independent claims.

Claims 16-29 and 37-41 were previously withdrawn from consideration due to the Restriction Requirement issued by the USPTO on January 13, 2004. These withdrawn claims have been canceled above.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 4, 6-8, 14, 15, 32, 35, and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 11-13, 30, 31, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,606,117 to Windle in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,100 to Amir et al.¹

Independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 32, respectively, which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Further, claims 2 and 31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, this rejection has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

¹ In page 3 of the Office Action, first paragraph, there appears to be a typographical error ascribing Amir with the patent number US 4,881,127.

Conclusion

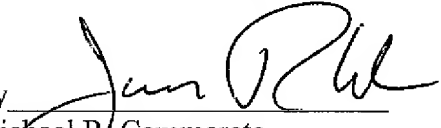
Entry of this Amendment After Final is respectfully requested in that it raises no new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Instead, the independent claims have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection and issue a Notice of Allowance.

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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